

# Delaware Cabinet Committee on Climate and Resiliency

## Draft Meeting Summary

### March 21, 2016

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#### Items Distributed:

- Agenda
- November Meeting Notes
- Summary of External Review Results
- Strategic Opportunity Fund for Adaptation (SOFA) Draft RFP
- Executive Summary: Strategies to Continue Reducing GHG Emissions
- Executive Summary: Avoiding and Minimizing Flood Damage to State Assets

#### Assignments and Next Steps

- A 1-page explanation of the Flood Risk Adaptation Maps will be created and distributed
- SOFA announcement April 1; grant applications due June 1
- Science Café for Climate Projections Portal on April 22
- Fueling the Future Event on May 24 (invites will be sent)

#### Introduction

David Small welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. David reported that major restoration work at the Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge to repair the dunes and marsh reached a critical milestone and that road improvements would begin soon.

The meeting summary from the November CCoCAR meeting were approved unanimously.

#### External Review of Climate Framework

David Small reviewed the rationale for and results of the external expert review of the Climate Framework. The intent of the review was to provide feedback that would assist with implementation. Questions posed to the reviewers included whether the recommendations were comprehensive, whether the 30% greenhouse gas reduction goal was realistic and whether the recommendations provided economic benefits. The reviewers had many positive things to say, but indicated that Delaware's 30% greenhouse gas reduction goal by 2030 is not robust enough and that a longer term goal (to 2050) should also be set. The review also offered suggestions for tracking progress, inter-agency cooperation and help for local governments. Actions are already underway that address several of their suggestions. For example, the interagency pilot projects on workforce safety and asset management make connections between agencies with similar goals. The proposed grant program provides seed funding for implementation and several agencies are already working with local governments to help them incorporate climate change concerns into planning and capital projects.

David Small also reported that he and his staff had an opportunity to meet with Governor Markell about the external review and progress implementing EO 41. Governor Markell indicated that he is supportive of the mitigation goals and adaptation recommendations and wants to ensure that progress is made during his administration. He will be issuing a memo to all Cabinet members soon with expectations. He was particularly interested in the cost/benefit of strategies to meet the 30% greenhouse gas reduction target by 2010. Bert Scoglietti asked how often greenhouse gas emissions are measured and whether the next governor might want to move the target. Valerie Gray explained that an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions is made yearly. 2008 is the baseline year for Delaware's 2030 target, and EPA can use historic data to project future emissions. The Mitigation Workgroup will be conducting additional work this summer to put some "numbers" on strategies that, if implemented, could help the state reach the 30% reduction target.

### **Interagency Pilot Projects**

Jennifer de Mooy, DNREC, reported that kick-off meetings have been held for both the Asset Management and Workforce Safety interagency pilot projects. Additional meetings will be scheduled in March. Interest in the initiative and meeting attendance has been high. Scopes of work will be developed for both projects and consultants hired to assist.

### **Strategic Adaptation Fund for Adaptation**

Jennifer de Mooy, DNREC, gave an overview of plans to provide a funding opportunity for state agencies to implement their Climate Framework recommendations. The Strategic Opportunity Fund for Adaptation (SOFA) will be a grant program open to state agencies only and will provide up to \$150,000 per project to implement adaptation activities linked to the recommendations in the Climate Framework. Each agency can submit up to 3 proposals. The program was amended based upon feedback from the EO 41 Points of Contact. With the approval of CCoCAR, the funds will be announced April 1, with applications due by June 1. Assistance is available from DNREC Division of Energy and Climate staff if agencies want to vet project ideas.

There were several questions and comments about this funding opportunity:

**Intersection of pilot projects and this funding opportunity:** State agencies participating in the pilot projects are still eligible for SOFA funding for similar activities.

**How would funding be transferred?** The original intent was for funds to be distributed as reimbursements after work is complete, but depending on the project and agency, funds can be distributed in increments. An award letter or MOA will be developed with each grant recipient and the exact reimbursement schedule can be worked out and described in that agreement. Projects should be complete within 2 years, but there is some flexibility if necessary.

**Assistance for Local Governments:** Connie Holland described the need for funding to help local governments with comprehensive planning and wanted to know if this fund or others could be used for that purpose. There is another funding opportunity coming up that could directly assist

local governments and DNREC will coordinate that with OSPC. If there are specific needs that can be linked to an agency's recommendations in the Climate Framework, SOFA funding can be used.

David asked for agreement on the content and timeline for the SOFA and all members present concurred with the plan as presented. The DNREC Division of Energy and Climate will notify all eligible agencies about the funding by April 1, and can have agency specific meetings as requested. Awards will be announced in July.

### **Mitigation Workgroup**

Susan Love and Valerie Gray provided background information on the content and intended use of the final draft document *Strategies to Continue Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions: A Report from the EO 41 Mitigation Workgroup*. This is an interim document intended to provide a menu of choices to reach the 30% greenhouse gas reduction target. Work will begin soon to develop specific emission reduction numbers and cost for selected strategies. The report has been reviewed by the state agencies and Points of Contact group and no comments were received during the comment and review period this winter. Once approved by the CCoCAR, the document will be made publically available. There were no questions or concerns about the document.

David Small asked for agreement from CCoCAR members to finalize the document and make it publically available. All members present concurred.

### **Flood Avoidance Workgroup**

Susan Love provided background information on the content and intended use of the final draft document *Avoiding and Minimizing Risk of Flood Damage to State Assets: A Guide for Delaware State Agencies*. This is a final product of the Flood Avoidance Workgroup and is intended to assist state agencies meet the intent of the flood avoidance provisions of EO 41 by providing guidelines and instructions. It includes information on how to use three sets of maps to understand the flood risk at a particular site, and information about how to avoid, then minimize, the risk of flooding on those sites. During the final agency review period, minor grammatical and technical errors were corrected, and the DNREC Division of Energy and Climate worked with the Delaware State Housing Authority to alleviate concerns regarding pass-through grants. Once approved, the document will be made available to state agencies and it will also be made publically available. The Flood Risk Adaptation Map, a map that was developed as part of the Flood Avoidance Workgroup deliverables, has been made available to state agencies on FirstMap and has been distributed to GIS professionals outside of the state system.

There were several questions about the document and the maps:

**Who can utilize the document?** The Guide was developed specifically for state agency use. However, it certainly can be used by any organization, local government or business wishing to better understand their flood risk and avoid future flood damage.

**How will use of the Guide be mandated?** The Climate Framework for Delaware outlines eleven specific state programs and policies that should be amended to include the intent of the guide. Several of these have been implemented already. Others, like updating the Division of Facilities Management Final Design Review Checklist, could only be implemented after the Guide was complete.

**How will this document be released to the public?** It was re-emphasized that this document was not developed for public use, but could have utility for many entities and they are free to use it. Bert Scoglietti asked if a press release would be drafted and sent. Dave Small indicated that it was not yet determined and we would seek suggestions from the agencies before deciding. It will be distributed to Cabinet Secretaries and publically available on the web.

**How will the Flood Risk Adaptation Maps be released to the public?** There is concern about messaging the maps, as they appear to increase the area delineated as at-risk to flooding. However, the area depicted on these maps lines up well with the area already delineated as the “500-year floodplain.” The maps are available to state agencies on FirstMap and have been already been distributed to partners at UD, non-profit groups and business. Susan Love and Mike Powell from DNREC act as “gate-keepers” for the maps, ensuring that the persons requesting the data understand the intended use of the maps as well as the assumptions that went into their development. The maps are already being used by state agencies (DNREC and DelDOT) to help assess future flood risk and make decisions about capital projects. A 1-page, quick reference, will be developed and distributed to agency heads and staff.

**Are there additional maps that would look at a sea level rise and storm surge of different heights?** A technical group is now reviewing the state’s sea level rise scenarios and will update them if necessary. A new map may be made at that time that shows different scenarios. It was noted that additional scenarios may help to alleviate some of the concern about public perception.

David Small asked for agreement from CCoCAR members to finalize the document and make it publically available. All members present concurred.

### **Annual Adaptation and Mitigation Progress Report to the Governor**

David Small reported that a report on EO 41 implementation will be submitted to the Governor in Fall, 2016. Agencies should start informally tracking their implementation efforts for EO 41, but also other actions that contribute to greenhouse gas reductions or climate adaptation. Participation in the pilot projects would also constitute progress on the related agency adaptation recommendation. Drafts will be circulated during the summer for comment. Successful SOFA projects will also be included.

### **Upcoming Events:**

The DNREC Division of Energy and Climate is hosting two events that CCoCAR members and their staff are encouraged to attend. The first is a Climate Café on April 22 that will showcase a new Climate Projections Portal and the Guide for Avoiding and Minimizing Risk of Flood Damage. The second is the

Fueling the Future Event on May 24 at Dover Downs. This event will showcase the many benefits of using electric, propane and natural gas vehicles. Use of alternative fuels improves air quality and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

**Next Meeting:** the next CCoCAR meeting will be planned for the fall.

**Attendees:**

**Department of Safety and Homeland Security:** Terry Pepper

**Delaware State Housing Authority:** Karen Horton

**Office of Management and Budget:** Bert Scoglietti

**Department of Transportation:** Jim Papas

**Delaware Economic Development Agency:** Patty Cannon

**Office of State Planning Coordination:** Connie Holland, Steve Bayer

**Department of State:** Tim Slavin

**Department of Education:** Karen Field Rogers

**Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control:** David Small, Phil Cherry, Susan Love, Jennifer de Mooy, Valerie Gray, Michael Tholstrup